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HON. SECRETARY: G. T. ALLEY
HON. EDITOR: W. J. McELDOWNEY

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TECHNICAL MAN v LIBRARIAN

F. N. STACE AND V. J. WILSON*

* Editor and Assistant Editor, Technical Publications, Ltd., Mr Stace being largely responsible for *New Zealand Engineering* and the *New Zealand Electrical Journal* and Mr Wilson for the *New Zealand Science Review*. In addition, Mr Stace is a director of Technical Books, Ltd.

'CAN I HELP YOU, sir?' said the librarian. 'The latest information we have on drilling? Certainly: now, this book on physical education has just—Pardon? Oh, drilling holes. How silly of me. If you'll step this way, the dentistry section should have just what —Dentistry be damned, sir? And you want diamond-tipped drills, of course? Ah yes, of course!

'Well, this is the jewellery and precious stones shelf. Why, sir, you're going quite purple in the face. Would you like to sit

down for a minute? Oh! Oh! I see! You're an engineer, and want a book on engineering drills, and if I weren't so young you'd tell me what I could do with the whole library. Ha! Ha! Well, now that we've cleared up that little misunderstanding, I think we have the very book you want—' Drilling and Grinding in the Workshop.' Please, sir! You're disturbing all the readers. Eh! I don't think they'd find it very comfortable in the lake, sir. But you'll have one last try? Yes, I'm listening. You want a book about drills used for making holes in the ground to find the stuff I should be boiled in? Oh! Oil! Petroleum engineering. Here you are, sir.'

And as the librarian reeled back to the desk muttering ' Dumb engineers ' the engineer, thumbing the index of his hard-won book, was muttering ' Dumb librarians.'

We shudder to think that such encounters really do occur, but at the same time there is evidence that librarians and technical men have not the complete mutual understanding which has the mark of sublimity. Perhaps this is because neither side adequately appreciates the skill and training of the other and the derivated capabilities and limitations from that training. As a result, a meeting between the two parties often takes the form of a frustrating blind man's bluff. Perhaps, by describing some of the peculiar characteristic of these technical men the librarian's bandage can be raised a little—enough at any rate to avoid most of the collisions of darkness, to their mutual advantage.

Since this is about technical men we might as well be technica and refer to them in general as the genus Techomo. This genus has two main species : *T. professionalis*, composed of the professional men, scientists and engineers ; and *T. artistanus*, who are non-professional men—technicians, skilled tradesmen, students and apprentices. The foraging habits of each are dissimilar but perhaps equally confusing.

Let us first examine a typical specimen of *T. professionalis*. He has generally, as a result of his early professional training, acquired sometimes by dubious means) a substantial personal library consisting of essential basic texts—possibly now out of date—plus some more modern specialized books relating to his particular interest. In addition he regularly receives the proceedings of one or more learned societies, of which he is a member, plus independent journals of a specialized nature. It he is a scientist he also exchanges reprints of his own papers with those of others working in his particular branch of science. In short he has a sound broad knowledge of fundamentals and a specialized knowledge of a section of science in which he keeps up-to-date with the latest developments—or tries to.

Usually an institutional or departmental library bears the brunt of his attack and, broadly speaking, these libraries can handle his demands even if they can't always satisfy them. But there is still room for improvement here and with the development of inter-loan and the general integration of New Zealand library facilities, it should not be beyond the capacity of even the smallest public library to make at least an intelligent effort to obtain the most abstruse information.

To make this effort requires an appreciation of the tremendous importance that the written word has for the professional man and also some acquaintance with his aim. Initially, the scientist, wishing to spread the word of his discoveries, either in the cause of science or for his own prestige, was obliged to publish his findings in book form—usually at his own expense. With the growth, however, of technical publishing organizations and of specialized societies during the last 100 years, there has resulted a marked change in the dissemination of information, so that to-day the results of research and development are almost without exception first published in journals and periodicals. Books come later, taking the form less of reporting the author's own researches, than of quickly collecting the results of scattered work on one subject. Technical books accordingly have become, with few exceptions, more the accumulated results of the latest research or practice rather than works of lasting reference. Texts are not now revised as often as they were but become out-dated and replaced by new titles—a tendency particularly noticeable with American technical publications.

From this can be understood the voracious appetite of *T. professionalis* for new books and his frequent disgust at having to purchase a substantial looking tome to acquire perhaps one chapter of new information essential to the progress of his work.

Also from the foregoing can be understood the greater value he places on technical journals which provide a more rapid, continuous presentation of the latest developments in his particular field. But maintaining touch with all that goes on in even one very specialized field, and the tracing of information which is known to exist, can be seen to present very real problems when it is realized that there are about 40,000 scientific periodicals alone and that in 15,000* of these some 750,000 articles are published annually. Of course there are abstracting and indexing services such as ' Biological Abstracts and ' Engineering Index,' with which every librarian should be familiar, but it should be remembered that the 300 such services fail to cover two-thirds of the published information.

What is the answer? Unfortunately there is none at present, though the whole question is one which is currently exercising the minds of the scientists in particular.

For example, a substantial section of the proceedings of the Royal Society Science Conference of 1946 is devoted to the subject of scientific information, and a special Conference on Scientific Information was held by the Royal Society in June 1948. There is a curious anomaly in the fact that while the subject is one which intensely concerns the librarian, little constructive effort has been expended by him and he seems content to maintain a passive, disinterested role. Isn't it time he did take an interest?

This is a major problem involving possibly a complete revolution of modern publishing and distribution methods to attain the maximum efficiency. Still, there is much that can be done under present conditions. Let us take two examples.

* About the same number of technical books are published each year.

First, the case of a particular item of information. Fortunately, *T. professionalis* generally has a fairly good idea of what he wants. Perhaps he has seen a reference to a book published overseas, or to an article in an overseas journal, or maybe he remembers that about three years ago there was a note in 'Nature' by Goldschmidt. Fairly routine enquiries, in fact, but it is surprising how many librarians lose interest once they are convinced that the required book or journal is not in their own library. It must be admitted that they often make a bee-line for the 'Cumulative Book Index'—which seems to hold some mysterious fascination for them—but after identifying the required book they appear perplexed about the next move if the book is not in the library. We have had to beseech university librarians to try the National Library Service for a book not on the shelves. Similarly, when requiring an article in the 'Journal of Educational Psychology' we were told by the librarian in a public library : 'We havn't got that journal, and is there anything else.' The idea of using Harris's 'Check list of Serials in New Zealand Libraries' to find who did have it, and then of using inter-loan to get it, simply did not pass the threshold of consciousness.

Secondly, the case of a particular group of information—the compiling of a bibliography in fact. On beginning a new facet of research or an unusual detail of construction or design, *T. professionalis* wants to know everything that has previously been done on the subject, so that he can avoid duplication and benefit from the experience of others, and usually he searches the literature himself. In fact the ability to conduct such a search is considered by the Director of the Fats Research Library* to be an essential attribute of a research worker. Librarians should consider whether much of this work should not rather be their concern. Surely it is a librarian's task to assemble literature on any subject. Yet, how many would know how to begin if asked for a list of references to all the literature on, say, the alkaloids of the Mesembryanthemum? Or how many would know how to satisfy a professional electrical engineer who asked for all that had been published during the last two years on the performance of iron-clad switchgear. After all, there are about 25,000 articles on electrical engineering published annually.

The characteristics of *T. professionalis* are that the creature generally knows precisely what he wants, can frequently quote references to obscure journals, but seldom troubles to explain the object of his quest in simple terms. As he wants specialized information he seldom invades general libraries which are the natural habitat of *T. artisanus*.

T. artisanus frequents general libraries for several reasons. He has not accumulated a personal library ; he may not have access to a specialized library ; he needs detailed information about fundamental theories and processes, and applications of them with which he is unfamiliar.

From the point of view of quantity and quality, books held in

* Shorland, F. B. (1948) : Education of the Chemist : The Research Worker's Needs. *New Zealand Science Review, 6 :* 110-14.

a general library will generally satisfy *T. artisanus*, as what he wants is probably there. But what is he looking for? 'A small green book on electricity,' recommended by a technical college, his employer or his friend. Authors and titles mean relatively little to him, and if subjected to a barrage of helpful questions by a librarian, he is likely to become only confused. But he does know the subject classification and will patiently wade through all likely titles to find what he wants.

His requirements of a library are therefore that it be well stocked with standard texts so labelled that he can find his way to a subject and can then browse unaided.

The latest theoretical advances, the life blood of *T. professionalis*, interest him hardly at all, but, once through the textbook stage, their practical applications do, and there the general library is something of a disappointment, as seldom will it have enough trade information (e.g. trade journals and catalogues) to satisfy him.

Unfortunately his lack of precision in asking for what he wants affects his chances of persuading the library to acquire and display sufficient periodicals. For instance his request for 'The Engineering Journal' may mean 'The Engineer,' 'Engineering,' or 'New Zealand Engineering.' Requests for trade information are often more difficult, but librarians should be aware of the fact that the various Trade Commissioners will gladly assist. Similarly, enquiries for standard specifications and details of patents should be referred direct to the New Zealand Standards Institute and the Patents Office.

With *T. artisanus*, as with *T. professionalis*, tactful cross-examination is required from librarians, plus full and intelligent use of existing facilities for tracing and obtaining the required information.

While the personality and initiative of individual librarians can do much to alleviate the worries of technical men in their struggle for information, it must be remembered that there are broader international problems. At present technical men are groping, almost unaided, for a solution to these. What are librarians doing to help?

COINCIDENCE

A NEW ENGLAND librarian relates that he wrote in to the Library of Congress, which supplies a standard form of catalogue card to libraries all over the country, ordering a packet of cards and enclosing in payment a cheque for one dollar. The packet arrived some days later, followed closely by this scholarly epistle :

Dear Sir :

You recently sent an order for cards amounting to one dollar and enclosed a remittance of one dollar. The order happened to amount to one dollar. The transaction is thereby closed.

—*New Yorker*, September 25th, 1948.

A DEPARTMENTAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

The Department of Scientific & Industrial Research

E. H. LEATHAM*

* Librarian, Head Office Library, D.S.I.R. Library School, 1947.

THE DEPARTMENT of Scientific and Industrial Research was set up in 1926 to co-ordinate and be responsible for most of the scientific research to be conducted on a national scale in New Zealand. Roughly, the fields covered are plant industry, chemistry, geology, physics and engineering ; thus animal industry, fisheries, forestry and medicine are excluded. In some cases research work is done for other Government Departments, which are responsible for making the results known, or for using them on a large scale. A general service is also given to industry, which in most cases is on too small a scale to support adequate laboratory or library facilities, either singly or in co-operation.

To these ends a network of laboratories, research stations, sub-stations and field offices is spread throughout the country, and all of these must be kept supplied with information about the latest scientific developments in their fields of work ; for this purpose twenty-six people are employed either full or half-time in the Head Office or Branch libraries, while in a number of the smaller branches some member of the staff is responsible for the circulation and return of periodicals and for other general library duties.

THE STATUS OF SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY WORK

The need for an efficient and up-to-date literature and reference service is probably greater in scientific research libraries than in others, as no project should be undertaken until all the relevant published information has been found and digested. When library service is efficient, the possibility of previous work being repeated is lessened, and the research worker is kept in touch with current literature which may help to open up new lines of thought, and possibly to close old ones. This fact is appreciated to varying degrees within the Department ; in some Branches officers read all abstracting journals voraciously, and request dozens of references from little known and rarely held foreign journals, while elsewhere there are old school workers who still think they can find all the literature likely to be needed and who regard librarians solely as clerical custodians. One of our biggest problems is the education of research workers in the full use of the library and its trained librarians. We hope that a policy of gentle persistency will ultimately gain a realization and appreciation of the services given, and lead to a demand from the laboratory workers and directors

for a full expansion of library services, in staff, accommodation and the acquisition of materials.

There is at present a lack of appreciation of the large amount of staff time required for cataloguing, indexing and recording. Nevertheless, the location of any publication is expected, even though only the vaguest of details may be given. This unfortunate attitude probably springs from the first impressions of public and college libraries, where most of this work is done behind the scenes. Most of the Departmental libraries are in small rooms shelved to the ceilings, with little or no room for would-be readers or browsers.

To give an intelligent service, the librarians should have the same training and status as the laboratory workers, and be regarded as researchers with indexes, abstracts and journals instead of laboratory equipment. They should therefore have the same auxiliary clerical services, leaving them free for professional duties. The Department employs twelve graduates (eight in Science and four in Arts), mainly in the larger Branches, and of these half are trained or quite experienced librarians. All have to waste a lot of time on routine duties.

These are some of the long-term difficulties encountered by me during my first year as Head Office Librarian, responsible for the general policy of the Department's libraries.

THE INFORMATION BUREAU

The Head Office Library is part of the Information Bureau, which is responsible for the publication and dissemination of printed material within the Department and outside. The Bureau consists of three main sections. The Publications Section is responsible for the editing, production and distribution of the 'New Zealand Journal of Science and Technology' and all other Departmental and Branch bulletins and publications. The Publicity Section publicizes the work of the Department in newspapers and trade journals. These two sections share a photographic unit.

The Information Section comprises an Information Officer, and District Information Officers in the other main centres, with their assistants, and the Library. To these Information Officers are referred all requests for subject information, both from officers within the Department and from private individuals and industry. They have a good knowledge of the work and facilities of the Department, as well as a card index of the official and private scientific interests of the research workers. Thus most problems dealing with special New Zealand conditions, such as horticulture and pottery with local clays, are referred to experts who may have investigated a similar problem previously and know what to look for, and a long literature search for irrelevant information is avoided. Only when the experts themselves want more information, or cannot supply it, is a search made.

The Information Officers also help industrial firms with their problems, either by advice or by laboratory investigation. Manufacturers are kept abreast of latest developments by means of the 'Industrial Bulletin,' a monthly publication, issued conjointly with the Department of Industries and Commerce, which gives abstracts

of periodical articles which are of possible significance to New Zealand industry. The technical journals from which the abstracts are taken are available on loan to anyone interested, and more information on the same subjects will be sought if desired.

The Technical Records Section makes available copies of the reports of the Allied Technical Intelligence teams which followed the occupying armies into the Axis countries to glean technical secrets and information on industrial developments. Some of these contain valuable information about new processes or improvements, and have been made available to the world at nominal cost.

A photocopy service, employing one full time operator, is available for officers of the Department, whereby copies of articles and diagrams can be made for reference purposes. This saves the continual reborrowing of certain special numbers of journals through library interloan. Approximately one hundred pages can be copied a day, at a cost of about one shilling a page. The Miles Copycat uses the normal silver salt method for both the negative and positive prints, with the consequent expense and delay of wet processing. The possibilities of a dry printing diazo machine are at present being investigated.

A translation service is also available, the work being given to private individuals who are paid on a word count basis. Unfortunately, only a few such people are available, and most do not have the necessary technical background to do a really good translation.

THE WORK OF THE HEAD OFFICE LIBRARY

The Head Office Library acts as the library and bibliographical centre of the Department, and is responsible for general standards, staffing and training. A fairly complete union catalogue of all books and periodicals held in the Department is maintained. All book ordering is done through the Head Office Library, and all books and major pamphlets are catalogued and classified upon receipt before being sent to the Branches. A classified catalogue of all major accessions, which has been maintained since 1942, forms a very useful subject index.

All our book purchasing, as is that of most other Government Departments, is done through the National Library Service. This arrangement, while possibly efficient in theory, has never worked well, and in most cases a time interval of six months elapses between the ordering and receipt of books, in contrast to the three or four months when we did our own ordering. Each monthly book order averages about 300 items, and the annual expenditure is about £7,000. Many more additional periodical publications are obtained in exchange for the Department's bulletins and the ' New Zealand Journal of Science and Technology,' and numerous complimentary publications are received, both direct and through the Scientific Liaison Officers in London, Washington and Melbourne. Owing to the scattered nature and diverse activities of the many Branches, books and journals in such basic subjects as organic and analytical chemistry, plant ecology and physiology, soils and fertilizers, and statistical method are often duplicated up to six or seven copies. Even such subjects as wood preservation and metallic corrosion are of great interest to at least three separate Branches.

At Head Office we aim at a good scientific reference collection,

especially strong in bibliographical aids, subject bibliographies, and works on the organization and value of science and research. The latter are available and are circulated to all Branches for general reading. A monthly classified accessions list is issued and mailed to all Branches and interested institutions, colleges and Government Departments. All the listed material is circulated within the Department according to subject interest immediately after being accessioned.

CIRCULATION OF PERIODICALS

About 450 periodicals are currently received at Head Office and circulated to the Branches. After details of volume, number, pagination and date have been entered in the circulation book, a circulation slip is attached and the journal charged out to a person or Branch, to be returned within 7 or 14 days. Upon return, it is ticked off and charged out to the next reader. Although this is a costly business, both in time and postage, it has been found to be the only way of keeping track of the journals. If sent out to be passed from reader to reader, journals are often lost, or cannot be traced if urgently required. One girl is engaged practically full time on this work, and is responsible for shelving and binding arrangements.

Many of the journals are retained after circulation by the Branches especially interested in them, and most are eventually bound. All Branches get a number of particularly important journals direct. There are about 200 subscriptions in this category, many of them being for duplicated items. A great demand exists for the timely perusal of certain important journals. At present, for example, nine copies of 'Nature' are received, as well as one which comes airmail. Each of these has a large circulation list.

Until recently, our circulation procedure involved the sending of certain journals more than once to one centre for different Branches, but this has been eliminated by the appointment of trained District Librarians, who give professional library service to several small laboratories, and who have clerical assistance to relieve them of routine work.

Foreign journals have their contents pages translated before circulation if there is no English title or summary. The Librarian, Information Officer, and certain executive officers read or scan a large number of journals upon receipt, and add other names to the circulation list where necessary.

INDEXING OF PERIODICALS

For some months one girl with a good broad science degree has been employed for thirty hours a week indexing certain current journals. While each has a large circulation list, the journals cannot be seen by all or by many within a short time, and so by the publication of a monthly classified index we aim to bring relevant articles to the notice of subject specialists. Such journals as 'Nature,' 'Research,' 'Endeavour,' and the publications of corresponding Departments overseas are selectively indexed by the Universal Decimal Classification. The cards, distinguished by colour, are filed in the subject index once a month, after the

compilation of the monthly index, which is mailed to all Branches and some interested outside institutions. Unfortunately, the interest and response to this index has been very small, as most research workers seem to prefer to wait until the reference appears in their usual subject abstracting journals.

LIBRARIES OF THE SMALLER BRANCHES

Because of the lack of trained staff and the non-availability of copies of the 'Check-list of Serials,' reference and interloan work is done at Head Office for a number of the smaller Branches. Such reference work, and that done for the Executive and Information Officers, involves many requests upon National Library Service stock and the 'Book Resources' sheet. As this is a free service, and one that could only be given by an organization of like character, it is appreciated very much. However, its effectiveness is limited for the numerous urgent research queries and it is often quicker, and certainly safer, to airmail to Australia or the United States for microfilm, rather than await the two or three weeks for a 'Book Resources' notification. Moreover, the limited number of research institutions to which 'Book Resources' goes is a limiting factor.

As a result of the decision of the Association that each Branch which wants to borrow in its own name must be an institutional member, the Department and its Branches have at present eight institutional memberships, each with one or more delegates and votes. The smaller laboratories with a book expenditure of £50-£100, and which occasionally want to borrow one or two journals, are the hardest hit.

The functions of the Branch libraries are similar to those of the Head Office library in book ordering, local reference service, and the circulation of journals and bulletins of subject interest. Different problems are met in the acquisition and author and subject indexing of large numbers of reprints and trade catalogues. The librarian is usually also responsible for the distribution of reprints of papers published by members of the staff.

WORK FOR THE FUTURE

An important job which has yet to be done, when staff become available, is the classifying and subject indexing, by the Universal Decimal Classification, of all the bulletins and reports in the library. This has been done for the past few years only, but when all the back material has been completed, the subject index will be a really useful possession.

As yet few contacts have been made with the information services of overseas Government Departments, the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux, or the Science Library. I feel that much help could be obtained from these older libraries, with larger and better bibliographical resources, in supplementing and compiling difficult reference lists, and in their reciprocal exchange.

SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION SERVICES

Discussion at Scientific Conference

ACCORDING TO THE LAST edition of the World List there existed pre-war some 36,000 periodicals devoted to scientific subjects, but so far as is known, no country has attempted to assemble or to make a systematic review of more than a small fraction of these.

' Dr Bradford and his colleagues at the Science Library, London, have shown that in a selected grade of 15,000 of these journals, an average of three-quarters of a million individual scientific contributions appeared each year, and that only one-third of these contributions are referred to in any one of the 300 leading journals providing abstracts or indexes.'

Thus Professor R. S. Hutton, speaking on Information Services at the Royal Society Empire Scientific Conference in 1946.*

The general report of the discussion on scientific information services remarks that, ' Owing to the rapid growth of scientific research, with the resulting promiscuous distribution of original papers among many journals, the improvement of indexing and abstracting services ia a matter of the first importance.

' The Conference discussed many aspects of the problem and agreed that better organization and much greater financial assistance for these services were required.

' The difficulty of securing access to publications resulting from work in all parts of the Commonwealth could be met largely by following the example of India and by preparing abstracts covering all the work done in the individual Dominion . . .

'Attention was drawn to the need for translating and making accessible publications in the less well known languages.

' Considerable attention was given to the point that the scientist needs access to reproductions of original papers and that such papers were usually buried in journals containing other matter in which he was not interested. The possibilities of greatly improving the facilities for reproducing original individual papers as separates were considered. The microfilm in this connection offered opportunities. There was scope for an approach to publishers and

* *Empire scientific conference, London, 1946. The Royal society empire scientific conference, June-July, 1946, report. The society, 1948. 2v.* The report of this conference contains valuable papers arising out of a discussion of measures for improving scientific information services within the Empire. Subjects discussed included indexing, abstracting, special libraries and microfilms. We have not included in this note many of the points made by the numerous speakers, for the report of this particular discussion covers pp. 667-799 of v.1. Attention is drawn, however, to the subject list of abstracts and bibliographies related to industry and engineering, appearing on pp. 681-5.

copyright-holders with a view to securing their co-operation in permitting microfilm and other methods of reproduction to be more widely used.

'There was discussion of the need for the centralized indexing of scientific literature and evidence was forthcoming as to the small proportion of such literature of which abstracts were made. As an aid to more comprehensive abstracting, centralized indexing was felt to be necessary . . .

SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS

'1. Consideration should be given to the establishment of a network of information services throughout the Dominions. Such a network would provide central focus points and for a two-way transmission of matter (either direct or through existing local centres adapted for the purpose).

'2. In view of the need for the scientist for possession of individual scientific papers on his own subject, the possibility of the publication, classification and distribution of papers in separate form or as reprints should be considered.

'3. The issue of occasional reviews of special branches of science, both for the specialist and for the general scientific reader, is considered desirable as a supplement to other forms of publication.

'4. The extended provision of microfilm and other forms of documentary reproduction is considered important for the rapid transfer of information throughout the Commonwealth. An economic service for the purpose requires centres in the United Kingdom and in each of the Dominions.

'5. The Conference recognizes that the qualifications of staff in scientific information services and special libraries call for special training and selection, and recommends the provision of facilities for increasing the number of properly trained staff.'

SPECIAL LIBRARIES

Miss E. M. R. Ditmas, of Aslib, discussing necessary developments of information services, said, 'Looking at the library system and the information services as they now exist and at the needs of the scientist in the present atomic age, the first and obvious comment is that, apart from the National Central Library and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux, there is no national recognition of the vital need for a fully developed information service. Two alternatives seem possible. Either we can continue the present haphazard system of development or there must be a fully organized State system which can give a complete and national service independent of private libraries . . .

'At first sight . . . a State-supported and State-controlled system of information services would seem to be the answer, since it alone could have the funds to set up centralized services and thus overrule the reluctance of certain types of library to participation in widespread collaboration. The remedy, however, might be worse than the disease, unless there is a radical change in the attitude of

the State, as expressed through the machinery of the Civil Service, towards library matters. Everyone knows that there are intelligently organized and active Government libraries and information services, but there are also departments where the librarian is equated with the clerical worker, and there are few where previous library experience or qualifications are considered essential . . . The fact is that the Civil Service, although it recognizes that the scientist has qualifications apart from his seniority within its ranks, and that he cannot be shifted from one place to another without regard to these qualifications, does not recognize librarianship as a qualification in itself . . .

'Moreover, it is seldom appreciated that the clerical workers in the accessions or other departments of a library are an integral part of the library machine, and that the skill of trained cataloguers or librarians may be largely vitiated if the clerical workers on whom the library routine must ultimately depend are liable to be shifted at short notice and are interchangeable with staff serving in other departments which have no connection with library interests . . .

'A third solution, possibly suitable to immediate needs, would be a combination of Government encouragement and private enterprise such as is shown in the system of indutrial research associations linked to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research . . .

'Whatever system is followed . . . the first necessity is a survey of existing libraries and information net-works in Great Britain and the Empire, which would have to be sponsored, if not carried out, by the Government . . . In particular, it would be necessary to see that the flow of information between the different parts of the Commonwealth was a two-way affair. These scientific liaison offices should be immediately linked with efficient documentary reproduction services to facilitate the transmission of urgently needed material, pending the creation of really good library centres in those parts of the Empire which still lack them.'

SCIENCE LIBRARIES IN POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

J. D. McDONALD*

* Principal, Technical High School, Westport.

IT IS NOW RECOGNIZED that the new syllabus of compulsory general science has led to demands upon library service in a rather wide field. Some post-primary schools in which the tradition of a many-sided approach to science has been long established have been able to provide the service required with but little additional buying.

Others, especially boys' schools with strong courses in pure physics and chemistry, have had to make provision for reading in new sciences. District High Schools have the resources of the Country Library Service at command. This gives them the advantage that a loan collection has over the request service available to larger schools. Nevertheless, the District High Schools, too, have felt the need for a ' resident ' collection.

In all cases the problems have been what to buy and how to use it when bought. It may well be that a consideration of uses comes before a decision to buy, but the two problems occur together, no matter what approach is made. It is to be imagined that the teacher-librarian, after carefully reading all the science schemes in the school, will then invite the science teachers to put in writing what uses they would make of the library if it were to buy to their needs. Suggested headings might include, among a host of others, library periods (it is a pernicious idea that ' library periods ' count as English), class sets, periodicals required, special sections, material other than books (e.g., the carbon tree, charts, diagrams, etc.), an outline of the school attitude towards pure, applied and popular science, the weight to be given to scientific hobbies (is there a science Hobbies Club in the school?), the interrelations with mathematics and social studies.

In the multi-lateral co-educational post-primary school which has been New Zealand's principal contribution to practical educational organization, the teacher-librarian will need to consider carefully the special sciences into which general science may well develop. Perhaps chemistry or physics in a boys' professional course, biology for girls, mechanics and some such applied science as technical electricity in an industrial course, human biology in a girls' ' home ' course, to take examples at random. Where these are not new subjects, the prescriptions have altered greatly of recent years.

Into the bargain, the requirements of day-light training of apprentices in the theories of their trades must be borne in mind, for these theories are all applied sciences. In the largest technical schools, the gradual transition to Higher Technological Institutes may be greatly accelerated in the near future.

All these are only part of the background against which the teacher-librarian draws up plans for library service in science, the whole usually on a meagre budget and with numerous other departments anxious also for their needs to be satisfied. It seems reasonable that a fair share of the Department's grant for libraries should be allotted to what is, in some cases, a new section. When all is analysed, it will be found advisable to have a consultation with the town librarian, presuming one ; or failing a town library, with the Country Library Service officer serving the district. In this way it should be possible to borrow all specialized books other than text books, and, in the case of the C.L.S., to arrange for a suitable collection of popular science for general reading. If the local library be ' free,' the National Library Service will do this also for your local librarian.

It will be as well to indicate to the officer concerned the leading points which have emerged from the preliminary work already

outlined. Add to this a candid appraisal of the present school science library, and a conservative estimate of what is to be bought at once or during the current year. Be frank about the periodical situation. Even where no actual periodicals service is available, advice on school subscriptions, can be obtained.

By this time the general outline of the present situation and the proposed development for, say, a year ahead, should be reasonably clear. But the librarian needs to know more than that. He needs to know the changes that are taking place all over New Zealand in the stress laid on different branches of science, and in the emphasis on applications rather than theories, at the elementary level. The departmental return, E2, sent to all schools, indicated that in 1947 nearly 60,000 pupils studied general science. Of these, nearly 2,000 presented it for School Certificate. This subject is easily the fastest growing of all, although it is strongly challenged by other 'new' subjects, such as biology. Chemistry continues to hold its own in part, but while some 600 pupils presented electricity and magnetism, heat light and sound has practically disappeared as an examination subject. Of the technical sciences, theory of engineering and technical electricity are growing apace. Heat engines has only a handful of candidates, but this can be expected to grow with the measures now being taken by the Motor Trade Certification Board.

Within the confines of so short an article, it is clearly not possible to examine more than one of the matters raised. And since it concerns most pupils, and hence most teachers and most librarians, we must look to the library to serve the general science course, not necessarily to School Certificate standard, but certainly to cover the requirements of the common core.

It is presumed that space exists for a special section to cover science, and that an adequate supply of periodicals is available or projected, and that the class sets are also lodged here when not in use. Incidentally, book-room 'overs,' when a text book is changed, can sometimes be a useful source of class sets. Charts and similarly bulky material cannot expect to receive permanent exhibition space, but it is suggested that periodical 'Science Weeks' share the display space with similar work of other departments, according to an agreed-on roster.

The following list of books has been found useful in schools in various places. A selection, according to funds available, is a reasonable beginning; but the teacher-librarian should also be abreast of modern popular science as reviewed, among New Zealand papers, in the 'Listener,' the metropolitan dailies, and the 'Weekly News.'

If the librarian has access to review periodicals from overseas, so much the better, but *don't forget New Zealand.* There are many New Zealand publications, ranging from 'Micro-organisms and Human Affairs' to 'The Lamp House Annual,' which the alert librarian should examine. The Post-Primary Bulletins furnish valuable guidance at times, and the work of non-specialized learned societies, such as the Royal Society of New Zealand, can help with our own country's science. The reports of Government Departments, too, can be very helpful.

Above all, the teacher librarian should read :

Siebens, C. R., and Bartlett, W. L. The librarian and the teacher of science. Chicago, American library association, 1942.

SCIENCE BOOKS FOR THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

Nature Study

Bateman, G. C. Fresh water aquaria. London, Bazaar Exchange & Mart., 1936.

Biology

Wells, H. G., and Huxley, J. S. The science of life. London, Cassell, 1931.

Thomson, J. A. Biology for everyman. London, Dent, 1934.

Nicol, H. Microbes by the million. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1939.

Durden, J. V. Cine-biology. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1941.

Hilyer, C. I. Hydroponics ; food without soil. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1940.

Phillips, M. E., and Cox, L. E. Teach yourself biology. London, English univs., 1940.

Nicol, H. The biological control of insects. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1943.

Drew, J. Man, microbe and malady. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1940.

New biology ; ed. by M. L. Johnson and Michael Abercrombie. Harmondsworth, Penguin. 1(1946)—

Smith, K. M. Beyond the microscope. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1943.

Blair, I. D. Micro-organisms and human affairs. Christchurch, Simpson and Williams, 1948.

General Physics ,Heat, Mechanics

Andrade, E. N. da C. Engines. London, Bell, 1936.

Bragg, W. H. Concerning the nature of things. London, Bell, 1924.

Williams, A. The wonders of modern engineering. London, Seeley, 1912.

Williams, A. The wonders of mechanical ingenuity. London, Seeley, 1910.

Hall, C. Conquests of engineering. London, Blackie, 1912.

Williams, A. How it works. London, Nelson, 1907.

Williams, A. How it is made. London, Nelson, 1907.

Light

Bragg, W. H. The universe of light. London, Bell, 1933.

Mees, C. E. K. Photography. London, Bell, 1936.

Martin, L. C., and Gamble, W. Colour and methods of colour reproduction. London, Blackie, 1923.

Electricity and Magnetism

Gibson, C. R. The romance of modern electricity. London, Seeley, 1930.

Gibson, C. R. Electrical amusements and experiments. London, Seeley, 1925.

Solomon, I. K. Why smash atoms. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1945.

Chemistry

Philip, J. C. The romance of modern chemistry. London, Seeley, 1926.
Findlay, A. Chemistry in the service of man. 7th ed. London, Longmans, 1947.
Meldola, R. Coal and what we get from it. London, S.P.C.K., 1921.
Sadtler, S. S. The chemistry of familiar things. New York, Lippincott, 1937.
Wilson, F. H. Coal. London, Pitman, 1917. (Common commodities and industries series.)
Maddox, H. A. Paper. 6th ed. London, Pitman, 1939. (Common commodities and industries series.)

(Others in the Common commodites and industries series, including Clays, Glass, Gums, Leather, Oils, Soap, Sugar, etc.)

Astronomy

Jones, H. S. Worlds without end. London, English univs., 1935.
Jeans, J. H. The universe around us. 4th ed. Cambridge Univ. pr., 1945.
Maunder, E. W. The stars and how to identify them. London, Epworth, 1918.
Macpherson, H. C. The romance of modern astronomy. London, Seeley, 1911.
Macpherson, H. C. The wonders of modern astronomy. London, Seeley, 1914.
Eddington, A. S. The expanding universe. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1940.
Jeans, J. H. The stars in their courses. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1939.

Geology, and Early Life on Earth

Gregory, J. W. The making of the earth. London, Williams and Norgate, 1912.
Grew, E. S. The romance of modern geology. London, Seeley, 1908.
Williams, A. The romance of modern mining. London, Seeley, 1907.
Fearnsides, W. G., and Bulman, O. M. B. Geology in the service of man. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1944.
Swinton, W. E. The corridor of life. London, Cape, 1948.

Weather Studies

Chapman, E. H. The study of the weather. Cambridge, Univ. pr., 1919.
Kimble, G. H. T., and Bush, R. The weather. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1943.

Scientific Method, Biography, and the History of Science

Hart, I. B. Makers of science. London, Oxford, 1930.
Sullivan, J. W. N. The bases of modern science. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1939.

Sullivan, J. W. N. The limitations of science. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1938.
Crowther, J. G. An outline of the universe. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1938. 2v.
Crowther, J. G. The progress of science. London, Paul, K., 1934.
Hogben, L. Science for the citizen. London, Allen, G., 1938.
The Marvels and mysteries of science. London, Odhams, 194-.
Haldane, J. B. S. Science and everyday life. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1941.
Evans, I. B. N. Rutherford of Nelson. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1943.
Bernal, J. D. The social function of science. London, Routledge, 1939.
Hatfield, H. S. Inventions. Harmondsworth, Penguin, 1940.
Jeans, J. H. The growth of physical science. Cambridge ,Univ. pr., 1947.

BRANCH NOTES

CANTERBURY

THE CANTERBURY BRANCH of the Association always ends the year with a party at which its members play merry games and do competititions. Mr Collins turned his aptitude for parlour games to good account at the 1948 break-up, and produced a fairy tale, with thirty missing words, to be filled in by the celebrators, which began thus (capitalized words were omitted) : ' Late one fine autumn evening a hard-working TAYLOR, who was remarkably HALE despite his four-score years, laid down the coat of HARRIS tweed of PEARLESS quality on which he had been lavishing such tender care, and set off for a walk to his favourite pub. He called in next door and dragged his friend the MERCER away from his bolts and bales, and together they crossed the busy street. They narrowly escaped a nasty accident at the first corner, for an ancient vehicle with no HORN and a tattered HOOD bore down on them unexpectedly and for a moment they thought the would have to send for a LEECH. But all was well, and soon they turned WRIGHT, into a small ALLEY which brought them to a secluded little wooded park of some three AKERS . . . '

REVIEW

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, LONDON. YEARBOOK. LONDON, THE ASSOCIATION, 1948.

MORE than half of this purely utilitarian volume is taken up by the list (repeated annually) of personal, institutional and corresponding members. The remainder consists mainly of the charter and bye-laws of the Association, a list of its publications, the syllabus of the examinations, and facilities for study and training. To most overseas readers its value lies in the sets of examination papers it contains. A dull, sturdy, well-produced book. N.J.R.

Library association, London. Yearbook. London, The Association, 1948.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

LIBRARY TRAINING

SIR—It is, I think, regrettable that the article on library training in New Zealand by Mr John Harris should have appeared in an issue of *New Zealand Libraries* which carried appreciations of his many fine services to the profession of librarianship. Mr Harris starts his article by referring to ' issues clouded with misunderstanding and marked by personal feeling,' and while he has succeeded in clearing up some of the misapprehensions of junior library assistants, and has shown the reasons for some of the decisions made by NZLA, I do not think it can be claimed that he has revealed either an entirely clear or an entirely satisfactory position.

An adequate reply would require a lot of your space, but there are some points which should not go unquestioned. Mr Harris presents a sketch of progress in library training marred by one or two omissions ; for example, he expresses surprise at the suggestion that students should wish the General Training Course to be taken over by the Library School, but forgets that this was the original intention of the Association as approved by the Minister of Education (see ' New Zealand Libraries ' 8 : 5 Ja-F '45). Mr Harris also fails to explain the disappearance of some parts of the General Training Course, and in particular of the diploma course, on the strength of the existence of which some students may well have entered the General Training Course. He says that the argument is between ' those who emphasize the value of university work plus a professional course . . . ' and ' those who give priority to practical experience.' I am not aware that anyone does the latter. Perhaps he would have been on safer ground had he distinguished between those who would offer courses at professional level for both graduates and persons with library experience, and those who would look at a degree or its equivalent as a *sine qua non*. Training for librarianship is, admittedly, a combination of theory and practice, but surely a lack of theory in the General Training Course would be offset by the lack of practice obtainable in the Library School. In other words, his criticism of the General Training Course could be levelled with equal accuracy at the Library School.

He deals at some length, and with considerable warmth, with ' the time factor,' and neglects the relevant points made by Miss Krebs in the article where she lists specific causes of delays in the Course. Further evidence of delays will be found in a letter previously appearing in ' New Zealand Libraries.' Criticism of the General Training Course has been made at Conference, Branch meetings, and in these pages, not in the hope of embarrassing the Training Committee, but in the hope that the Course will be constantly improved, revised, and that it should benefit from the creation of the Library School. The view that all is well with library training in this country seems inexplicably complacent, and yet that seems to be the view of the Training Committee.

On Mr Harris's three posed questions more specific comment is required.

1. If the Library School is so badly understaffed, and the few experts available so badly in need of holidays, why does the School neglect the previous approval of the Minister, and embark on other projects, such as refresher courses? Cannot the faculty of the School be strengthened?

2. Mr Harris does not observe advertised library positions. If he had done so, he would have noticed that at least six positions in public libraries have been advertised during 1948 at salaries comparable to those offered by the Government. Some of these, of course, have been filled by Library School graduates, but a comparable salary is, in many cases, unfortunately not enough. Public libraries should be available for the use of the public as often as possible. Shift hours are frequently worked, and graduates and others are naturally tempted by an 8.30 to 5 job with free week-ends. These anomalies between Government service and local body service can be resolved only by additional payments, procured possibly by a professional association such as Mr Borchardt envisaged in a recent letter to this journal. In any case, Mr Harris has not answered the question which he posed.

3. Should the Library School be open to those who have passed the General Training Course, and who satisfy the Entrance Committee of the School? The motion which passed Conference asked that this be maintained, and it is, I think, a small request. Provision was made in the Library School prospectus for the award of the certificate of the School to those without graduate status, but with a general education approximately equivalent to a degree, who had completed a satisfactory year at the Library School ; and quite a number of certificates have already been awarded. Mr Harris is trying to deny something which actually exists. It appears that the facilities of the School are being wasted to some extent when 23 or 25 students are accepted out of a possible 30, and while students at all levels of general education are crying out for tuition at a senior level.

No one has questioned the desirability of providing library training at graduate level, or doubted that the standard of professional library service has not been raised since the School was opened, but I do not think that advanced training at graduate level only is enough.

Yours, etc.,

B. G. HOOD,
Wellington Public Libraries.

3rd February, 1949.

UNESCO SUPPLIES LIBRARIES

THE *Library World*, October, 1948, reports that during the last summer, Unesco completed the shipment of libraries to twenty-eight international voluntary work camps in twelve war-devastated European countries. The libraries consist of 300 books, in English, French and German, on world affairs, atomic energy, history, geography, art, literature, music, etc. They have been sent to camps Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, England, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Poland.

NZLA CONFERENCE 1949

DUNEDIN, 10TH-13TH MAY

THE FOURTH library conference to be held in Dunedin will open on the evening of Tuesday, 10th May, with a reception for visiting delegates and members at 'Corstorphine,' the home of Lady Sidey, whose son, Mr T. K. S. Sidey, is Chairman of the Dunedin City Council's Library Committee.

Full details of the programme are not yet available, but it is expected that more free time will be allowed for informal discussion and consultations than in the past. Seminars will be held for cataloguers, children's librarians, and librarians from small public libraries. The University and Research, Schools' and Local Authorities Sections will meet during Conference ; the last named section has just been formed and this will be its first session.

One of the evening sessions will be devoted to the subject of audio-visual aids ; their use in libraries, the question of whether libraries should be depositories of films, the use of films and books by libraries. Miss K. McCaul, who returned last year from a period of study on high school libraries at Western Reserve University Library School, Cleveland, will be one of the speakers at a general meeting to deal with the subject of library service for young adults. Representatives of local authorities should be especially interested in the subject of libraries and local body reform and amalgamation, which will be dealt with at another session.

The general Conference session and the Annual Meeting will take place on Friday. These are the only two meetings arranged for that day, so that there will be ample time for discussion.

More information about the programme will be available later. In the meantime, note that the conference is in Dunedin, and that the dates are 10th to 13th May.

OTAGO UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1948

CHANGING STAFF and pressure of space do not make it easy for any library to function satisfactorily. It is inspiring, therefore, to read the annual report of the Otago University Library, with its record of steadily increasing work in spite of handicaps. The number of students at the university has remained fairly constant for three years now, but the number of borrowers using the library in 1948 was over a hundred more than in 1946, and borrowings for home use were six thousand more than in 1947. The library has had to borrow fewer books through inter-library loan, but the number of books lent to other libraries increased from 229 in 1946 to 376 in 1948. Work has continued on the job of reclassifying old sections of the library.

The most serious loss from the staff was, of course, that of the Librarian, Mr John Harris, late in the year. Three Library School graduates have had charge of the Acquisition, Serials and Reference divisions, and their specialized training has borne fruit in the smoother functioning of the Library as a whole, but the report points out that the Library is still forced to depend too much on a steady supply from year to year of workers without professional training, employed on a temporary or part-time basis. 'We have been fortunate,' it says, 'in the number and ability of such assistants available, but however capable and willing, they can never, at this stage of the Library's growth, be a satisfactory substitute for fully trained people.'

Two noteworthy events in the Hocken Library's year were displays of book production and typography, and of art, in Otago since 1848, and the publication of the 'Calendar of Dr T. M. Hocken's Personal Letters and Documents Preserved in the Hocken Library.' Detailed investigations were conducted in the library in connection with, among other subjects, whaling in Foveaux Strait, early Otago newspapers, railways in Central Otago, South Island Maoris, and shipping in the 'fifties and 'sixties.

NEWS AND NOTES

FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE

Book cloth. Supplies of book cloth are still available from the Association office, but members are advised to place their orders early. Prices are

Black washable cloth	4s 6d per yard
Red embossed cloth	4s 2d ,,
Blue Elgrade cloth	3s 10d ,,
Grey Elgrade cloth	3s 10d ,,

Postage or cartage is additional.

General Training Course. Applications for admission to Part II close with the Secretary on 1st March. The fee is 25s.

Remits and Notices of Motion. The closing date for matters to be discussed at the 1949 conference is 1st April.

Election of Officers. Nominations for the election of officers of the Association (other than the eight ordinary members of Council) will be received up to the opening of the Annual Meeting on Friday, 13th May. It would be appreciated if nominations and the consent in writing of the person nominated could be posted to the Secretary before the Conference.

UNESCO's LITERARY POOL

TO HELP to break down the barriers to intellectual contact between peoples speaking different languages, Unesco has instituted an International Literary Pool, reports the October, 1948, 'Unesco Courier.' Articles appearing in literary reviews, or in reviews having literary sections, are offered to similar reviews in other countries. For example, an article by Rabindranath Tagore on the place of music in education and culture, originally published in the Indian review 'Visva Bharati,' was offered to the Ecuador review 'Letras del Ecuador,' which recently published it. It is hoped to extend the technique to other fields, such as films, philosophy and all forms of expression of thought which are a feature of periodicals in every country.

DEAD ORDERS NOW BURIED

WE REPRINT from the *Library World*, October, 1948, the following note which should interest some libraries :

'We have been informed in conversation by a well-known publisher that booksellers have recently cancelled their records of orders from libraries for books which they have been unable to supply in the recent lean years. Publishers are now returning to print many important books which could appear in the war years only in limited editions and which, therefore, libraries were unable to obtain, and still want. The moral is plain that there must be libraries with outstanding desiderata " on order " unaware that the " order " no longer survives at the booksellers ; and, if they still want the books, our informant advises, they should re-order them.'

HEALTH DEPARTMENT PUBLISHES BOOK REVIEWS

'HEALTH' is the title of the new bulletin put out by the Health Department. Most libraries will have received the first (November) issue. It is distributed free, mainly through voluntary organizations likely to be interested in health education. We are advised that future issues will contain book reviews. 'We like to have up-to-date guidance on all that concerns the health of our children and ourselves, but books are often over our heads. The books reviewed here, however, are up-to-date, readable and reliable. Some you may want to own yourself . . . but enquire about them first at your public library.' So reads the introduction, and librarians are on their mettle accordingly. A note for librarians about the first batch reviewed (on infant welfare) says, 'These are popular books which can be acquired with confidence for your health collection. Future issues will cover such topics as sex education, contagious diseases, and nutrition.' We understand that the usual procedure will be to select attractive looking books from National Library Service stock, have them appraised by specialists in the Health Department, and review those that pass muster. If the scheme succeeds in arousing interest in these books, it will result in a good test of the public library services of the country.

PRAGUE 1948

Keesing's and Facts on File Compared

W. J. McELDOWNEY

MANY NEW ZEALAND LIBRARIES keep on their shelves and contrive to use, despite its defective index, **Keesing's Contemporary Archives.** A work which is similar in intention, but which is less well known here, is its American counterpart, **Facts on File.** A comparison of the two would therefore seem justified, and what better event for this than the uheaval of February and March 1948 in Czechoslovakia?

Keesing's had nothing on the subject until the issue for 6th-13th March, more than a fortnight after the beginning of the crisis. But then it produced a long, comprehensive, and balanced report, with a wealth of information and quotation from documents and statements. A long summary of the events leading up to the acceptance of the twelve Ministers' resignations (February 25th) is followed by the texts of letters between President Benes and M. Gottwald. The new Cabinet is listed in full, with the parties to which the members belonged, and the portfolios assigned to them; and there are notes on the new members. The British, French and American joint statement of February 28th is given in full, and a speech of M. Gottwald's, in which he replied to it, is quoted in some detail. The official announcement of M. Masaryk's death is given, and tributes to M. Masaryk from abroad. Conflicting theories about the reason for his death are noted, ranging from his hatred of authoritarianism to his chagrin at the unjust criticism of the new Government from abroad, and criticisms of himself for allying himself with it.

The noticeable thing about the **Keesing's report** is its wide range, the wealth of detailed quotation, the willingness to hear both sides. The editors of **Keesing's** may have made up their minds, but they are willing to allow others the same privilege. The editors of **Facts on File** are not so happy about their subscribers' capacities. Their issue for February 22nd-28th has the news (well ahead of **Keesing's**), and they certainly let us know what they think about it.

Right on the front page is a map of Europe, spattered with ideological symbols, question marks, arrows, and variegated shading. Russia, Poland, Eastern Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Roumania, Jugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania are shaded (or should we say shady?); Finland, Austria, Italy and France are black with question marks, and arrows pointing at their hearts. The rest of Europe, including Spain, is a dirty white.

The report begins like this: 'The Coup. Russia gained complete control over Czechoslovakia through the Czech Communist Party in a bloodless coup this week. By week-end there were signs that Finland was next'. There is then an extremely sketchy summary of events, in

short sentences, and with a minimum of quotation, presumably in order not to overburden the understanding of the majority of the readers of **Facts on File.** Loaded words and phrases are used, and there is even a descent into this kind of guesswork: 'A "close friend" of Benes later told the AP that the crisis ended thus . . . '

Facts on File did not report one item which is to be found in **Keesing's.** It is that the Roman Catholic Church in Czechoslovakia, in a pastoral letter of March 9th, addressed a conciliatory message to the new Government.

Subscription Books Bulletin for April, 1947, said that **Keesing's** was 'scholarly in manner, restrained in tone, and impartial . . . It presents more substantial reports than **Facts on File,** in extremely objective analysis, and brings together material otherwise available only in scattered form in newspapers, periodicals and documents of world scope'.

'**Facts on File** is a weekly index and synopsis of world events. It is purely objective—impartial and unbiased', says its prospectus.

In its announcement of the forthcoming Royal tour of New Zealand and Australia, **Facts on File** referred to one of the party as 'Princess Margaret Rose'. So it's not too good on royalty, either.

A WORTHY INSTITUTION

'In a place like Auckland, a mechanics institute should, we think, be more appreciated than it is. The opportunities for mental cultivation it affords are great. A good library, the principal papers, a well lighted and comfortable room and periodical lectures for the moderate charge of 5/- a quarter are no mean recommendations, and we would strongly advise our readers, especially those whose evenings are disengaged, to join without delay.'—'Auckland Examiner', 11th February, 1860.

RANK INJUSTICE

'Since it became manifest that the Premier would not appoint Mr H. L. James to the office he has so fairly earned, that of Parliamentary Librarian, the Joint Library Committee has twice recommended that he should get an increase of salary from £250 to £300.'—'Evening Post', 20th October, 1900.

Printer's note: For the first time, this issue is set in Monotype Times New Roman (9 point). This has necessitated certain technical rearrangements of our plant and accounts for the number being rather late.

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THE INDEX TO NEW ZEALAND PERIODICALS, 1947

has recently been published, and may be bought for £1 from the Secretary, New Zealand Library Association, c/o National Library Service, Wellington.

The 1941-46 cumulation, and the 1948 volume will be published during 1949.